

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Sandor Kovacs Replaces Peter Gabor
as Real Chief of Political Police

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1 1. Peter Gabor, (also known as Beno Auspitz) chief of the Hungarian Political Police, which he has headed since he founded it himself, has fallen into disgrace. Hungarian Communist Party circles, as well as Moscow, were completely satisfied with his achievements as long as he had to deal with the activity of non-Communist elements and neutralize their resistance to Communist aims.

25X1 2. During the course of recent years, however, Communist Party leadership has realized that the potentially most dangerous enemy of the new regime was within the Party itself, in organized labor. From that time on the real task of the Political Police was to discover the focal points of hostility against the new regime among the workers and purge organized labor of the most recalcitrant elements. Gabor failed on this point. Despite his ruthlessness, he was not successful in blocking the growth of dissatisfaction and hostility among industrial workers.

25X1 3. Some two months ago an unpublicized strike of the miners demanding increased wages was rejected by the Government. However, some 60 miners refused to go along with the Government solution of the strike and preferred to flee the country. Their successful desertion dealt a mortal blow to the shaky position of Gabor. The Communist Party, which used to react with indifference to the evasion of reactionary elements, was revolted at the news of 60 party members deserting and succeeding in reaching the Capitalist West. Gabor was blamed with incapability and helplessness, and his removal was suggested.

25X1 4. While outwardly Gabor is still in office, the real head of the Political Police has become Sandor Kovacs, who spent some 20 years in the Soviet Union and returned to Hungary with the Red Army. Since his return to Hungary, he has been chief of the Second Division of the Political Police.

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